

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAM-01 IO-10 SAJ-01 OMB-01 AID-05 /080 W

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R 180600Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 638

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 5535

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, BG, CH

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH-CHINA RELATIONS

REF: A. DACCA 2727

B. PEKING 1053

1. MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL (SOUTH ASIA) HAYAT MEHDI HAS PASSED TO US WHAT HE SAYS IS PAK EMBASSY PEKING'S ACCOUNT OF VISIT TO CHINA OF BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR KAISER. ACCOUNT DIFFERS SIGNIFICANTLY FROM VERSIONS REPORTED IN REFTELS.

2. PAK ACCOUNT HAS IT THAT IN LETTER SENT TO PEKING BEFORE KAISER'S ARRIVAL, BENGALIS HAD ASKED FOR APPOINTMENT FOR HIM WITH CHOU EN-LAI (WHICH CHINESE TURNED DOWN) AND HAD "IN GENERAL TERMS" CALLED FOR THE EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. KAISER WAS SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD BY CHINESE VICE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT PRC WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH BD UNTIL DACCA HAD ESTABLISHED RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN. KAISER HAD ALSO SOUGHT PRC
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APPROVAL FOR VISIT TO PEKING OF FOREIGN MINISTER KAMAL

HOSSAIN AND HAD GOTTEN COLD RECEPTION. (THE CHINESE TOLD KAISER THAT THEY DID NOT RECEIVE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF COUNTRIES WITH WHICH THEY DID NOT HAVE RELATIONS. WHEN KAISER RECALLED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISITS, CHINESE SAID BANGLADESH WAS DIFFERENT.) VICE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD CALLED KAISER'S ATTENTION TO WHAT CHINESE TERMED INTRANSIGENT BD ATTITUDE ON ASSETS/LIABILITY AND BIHARI REPATRIATION ISSUES AND HAD BEEN CRITICAL OF BD'S ALLOWING ITSELF TO BE "USED" BY OTHER POWERS (I.E., INDI). KAISER'S EFFORTS TO GET HELP FOR BD'S "HUNGRY MILLIONS" HAD ALSO BEEN REBUFFED.

3. MEHDI RECALLED THAT WHEN CHINESE VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN VISITED PAKISTAN IN APRIL, HE HAD TOLD PAKS PRC WOULD BE MOST RELUCTANT TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH BD BEFORE PAKS DID. ACCORDING TO MEHDI, PAKS HAD REPLIED THAT THEY WOULD NOT PRESUME TO ADVISE CHINESE HOW TO CONDUCT THEIR FOREIGN RELATIONS AND HAD SAID THEY WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM IF THE PRC WENT AHEAD. HE INDICATED THAT THE STRONG CHINESE LINE REPORTED BY THE PAK EMBASSY IN PEKING HAD COME AS SOMEWHAT OF A SURPRISE TO HIM. ASKED WHY HE THOUGHT THE CHINESE HAD BEEN SO NEGATIVE, HE SUGGESTED THAT THEY MIGHT NOT WANT TO MAKE A MOVE WHICH WOULD SERVE TO BOLSTER MUJIB AND UNDERCUT THE OPPOSITION TO HIM OF THE PRO-CHINESE GROUP IN DACCA.

COMMENT: MFA OFFICIALS HAVE OVER THE PAST YEAR CONSISTENTLY STRUCK A RELAXED ATTITUDE IN THEIR DISCUSSION OF PROSPECTIVE PRC-BD RELATIONS. THEIR APPROACH -- AT LEAST AS THEY HAVE CONVEYED IT TO US -- TO THE KAISER VISIT TO PEKING WAS VERY MUCH IN THIS VEIN. MEHDI INITIALLY PROFESSED TO BE LARGELY UNINFORMED ABOUT IT AND HAD ASKED FOR A REPORT (OR SO HE SAID) ONLY AFTER WE'D MENTIONED THE VISIT TO HIM. WE SUSPECT THAT THIS PROFESSED NEAR-INDIFFERENCE MASKS A MIX OF CONFLICTING CALCULATIONS AND EMOTIONS: HOW THE PAKS ACTUALLY WEIGH THE PROS AND CONS FROM THEIR VIEWPOINT OF A DACCA-PEKING RELATIONSHIP
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REMAINS UNCLEAR.
LUPPI

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Message Attributes

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